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MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Recent Developments in Southeastern Europe



A considerable number of reports indicate some increase in military preparations in Southeastern Europe. The general capabilities of Hungary, Rumania, Bulgaria and Albania for either offensive or defensive action appear to have been increased during the spring and early summer of 1950 by certain military movements and by a logistical build-up. Early in June 1950, the relatively normal military situation in the Southern satellites appears by numerous unconfirmed reports to have changed to one of considerable troop movement, especially in Bulgaria towards the frontiers with Yugoslavia, Greece and Turkey. At the same time, the shipment of military supplies has apparently increased in pace. In the midst of this activity, Tito has continued to maintain an attitude of relative calm while reviving the Macedonian issue in negotiations with Greece to the point of threatening the talks with a deadlock. Meanwhile, the Greek guerrilla question remains open and capable of exploitation at an opportune moment.

There is a definite possibility of a renewal of operations in the area of Greece with repercussions on the Macedonian question in which Yugoslavia is vitally concerned. Successful operations in northwestern Greece have a profound effect on the position of Turkey and the whole issue of the Straits.

R. H. HILLENKOETTER
Rear Admiral, USN
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Enclosure

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